

Commission News

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MSWCC staffers travel to Starkville for MCDEA meeting

STARKVILLE — MSWCC staffers, conservationists, district and agency representatives traveled to Starkville for the 2019 MCDEA Conference, which was held June 26-27 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Fifty-two attendees came to the conference, where informational presentations and educational training, games and crafts were on the agenda.

Those attending toured the MSU campus, watched an AG Drone demonstration, visited the Edam Cheese Store, and heard reports from conservationists, partnership agencies, and others including Reid Nevins, MSU Extension Service Agent II Ag/4-H; Melvin Ellis of Mayhew Tomato Company, Bayou Tour Productions, MSWCC and MDEQ.



Attendees at the 2019 MCDEA Summer Conference pose with MS State Dawg statue at the Hilton Garden Inn in Starkville. PHOTO BY KATHY DOUGAN, MSWCC

AT RIGHT: A number of attendees opted for a drone demonstration at the North Field on the MSU Campus. PHOTO BY MSU DRONE CAMERA



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

NACD 2019 SUMMER CONSERVATION FORUM AND TOUR: Aug. 2-7, 2019, Drury Plaza Hotel, Santa Fe, NM

NACD SOUTHEAST REGION MEETING: Aug. 11-13, 2019, Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN

MACD ANNUAL MEETING: Jan. 22-23, 2020, Jackson-Hilton, Jackson, MS

NACD 74th ANNUAL MEETING: Feb. 8-12, 2020, Las Vegas. For more information, please visit NACD's *Annual Meeting* webpage.

Oct. 11-12: 2019 Fall Flower & Garden Fest, Truck Crops Experiment Station, 2024 Experiment Station Road, Crystal Springs, Miss. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: <http://extension.msstate.edu/fallfest>.

Delta Summer Meeting held at Ground Zero, Clarksdale

CLARKSDALE — The Coahoma County SWCD hosted the Delta Summer Meeting at Ground Zero Blues Club in the Mississippi Delta on July 9, 2019.

Gip Carter, Delta Area Vice President, called the meeting to order, and Tripp Hayes, Coahoma County SWCD Chairman, welcomed the group.



Delta Area Conservationist Kevin Kennedy speaks at the Delta Summer Meeting. PHOTO: JOHN WILLIAMS MSWCC

Speakers included MACD President Jerry Smith, MSWCC Executive Director Mark Gilbert; NRCS State Conservationist Kurt Readus; NRCS Area Conservationist Kevin Kennedy, MCDEA Past President Nancy Melancon, and Melissa Wells of MDEQ..

Don Underwood conducted Commissioners' Training; Tripp Hayes presented the nominating committee report; Jerry Smith presented awards, and Roosevelt Lee delivered the invocation.

Attendees toured the Delta Blues Museum and were entertained by Ground Zero Musician LaLa.



Melissa Upchurch accepts the Delta District Employee of the Year Award from MACD President Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY R. TISDALE



Terry Maxwell, at left, accepts the award for Delta Cropland Conservationist of the Year from Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY ROBIN TISDALE



Betsy Padgett accepts Delta Commissioner of the Year award from Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY R. TISDALE



Delta Poster Contest Winner Grades K-1 Wyatt Wills of Coahoma County with Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY JOHN WILLIAMS



Delta Poster Contest Winner Grades 2-3 Spencer Jones of Leflore County accepts award from Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY JOHN WILLIAMS



Delta Poster Contest Winner Grades 4-6 Annie Powers of Leflore County accepts award from Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY JOHN WILLIAMS



Poster Contest Winner Grades 7-8 Alyssa Vassel of Coahoma County accepts award from Jerry Smith. PHOTO: J. WILLIAMS



Poster Contest Winner Grades 9-10 Sandra Ling Chow of Coahoma County accepts award from Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY J. WILLIAMS



Richard Cox accepts THE Delta NRCS Employee of the Year Award from MACD President Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY ROBIN TISDALE, MSWCC



Terry Todd, at left, accepts the Delta NRCS Earth Team Field Office Award for Tallahatchie County from State Conservationist Kurt Readus, center, and MACD President Jerry Smith. PHOTO BY ROBIN TISDALE, MSWCC

Stone County hosts South Area Summer Meeting in Wiggins

WIGGINS — Stone County SWCD served as the host for the South Area Summer Meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, in Wiggins.

South Area VP Robert Steele called the meeting to order, and the Rev. Robby Rikard of FBC Wiggins gave the invocation. John Grayson Rikard, son of Stone County Clerk Jennifer Rikard, led the pledge of Allegiance, and Noelle Hatten, daughter of Fire Chief Jody Hatten, sang the National Anthem.

Kent Hatten, Stone County SWCD Chairman, welcomed meeting attendees, and speakers included MACD President Jerry Smith and NRCS State Conservationist Kurt Readus. Don Underwood conducted Commissioner Training, and keynote speaker was Dr. Christine Coker, MSU Coastal Research & Extension

Center.

Jimmy McPhail won the South Area Wildlife Conservationist of the Year Award; Nathan Parker, age 14, of Pike County was the South Area Essay contest winner; and South Area Poster Contest winners were Julianna Burns of Harrison County, Grades 3-4; and Aubrey Canzoneri of Harrison County, Grades 5-6.



District Commissioner Greg Crochet, at left, and Thad Anderson, at right, accept the South Area Woodland Conservation District of the Year Award for Harrison County from Jerry Smith.



Herman Dungan, left, accepts the award for South Area Commissioner of the Year from Jerry Smith.



Hope Daley accepts the South Area District Conservation Employee of the Year Award from Jerry Smith.



Elvert Cole, at left, Supervisory District Conservationist with Jeff Davis and Covington counties, accepts the NRCS Employee of the Year Award.



Stone County Clerk Jennifer Rikard received an award from MACD President Jerry Smith for hosting and organizing the South Area meeting.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN WILSON, MSWCC

MSWCC's Lauren Wilson leads educators on an Incredible Journey

MSWCC Field Rep Lauren Wilson (center of circle, tan shirt), explains the educational game of Incredible Journey to teachers at a July 16, 2019, Teachers' Workshop in Hancock County.



Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

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